

DeFazio believes as the world's greatest economic, political, and military power the U.S. should be a global leader in promoting democracy, economic opportunities, the rule of law, and human rights. DeFazio has used both his voice and vote in Congress to shift U.S. foreign assistance away from military aid towards investments in education, infrastructure, and public health. He has criticized U.S. relations with dubious allies and voted against sending hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to dangerous international regimes. At home, DeFazio has publicly supported permanently closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, voted against domestic spying legislation that puts Americans' Constitutionally-protected rights at risk, and is a recognized expert and a public watchdog on Congress' constitutional prerogative to declare war.

Human Rights

As a long-time member of the Human Rights Caucus, DeFazio is a vocal critic of the use of torture and supports the permanent closure of the prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He believes Guantanamo contradicts American values, undermines U.S. diplomatic and military missions, strains our relationship with key allies, and puts Americans traveling or living abroad at risk.

DeFazio also firmly believes the U.S. government can protect the United States without trampling on the U.S. Constitution. DeFazio opposed the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which established unprecedented trial procedures for detainees held at Guantanamo and provided immunity to administration officials that authorized torture. DeFazio also voted against the USA PATRIOT Act, legislation that dramatically expanded executive powers to conduct intrusive surveillance, including on Americans, without safeguards or congressional oversight. DeFazio is working with his colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that while we fight terrorism at home and abroad, we do not unduly trample on the rights of law abiding citizens.

Humanitarian Assistance

DeFazio is committed to working with his colleagues in the House of Representatives and President Obama to bring stability and peace to Sudan, Burma, Israel and Palestine, Tibet, Haiti and other troubled areas of the world where violence, economic instability, ethnic conflicts, and natural disasters threaten lives and basic human rights.

Over the last ten years, one-third to one-half of all the money the U.S. has spent on foreign assistance went toward military, not humanitarian, assistance. DeFazio has consistently pointed out that it is hard to see how selling an F-16 fighter aircraft to an impoverished nation will assist in treating one AIDS victim, providing a single meal, or educating one child. DeFazio is working in Congress to redirect U.S. foreign assistance away from military aid toward investments in education, infrastructure, and public health.

Iran

DeFazio is deeply troubled Iran's support for terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah, its drive to undermine U.S. interests in Iraq and the region, and its pursuit of developing nuclear weapons. DeFazio supports a policy of containment through active diplomacy, working with U.S. allies in Europe, and imposing escalating multilateral economic sanctions on the Iranian regime.

Israel-Palestine Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a long-standing and complicated dispute. Both sides passionately believe the actions of the other are illegal under international law and consider the lands under dispute to be their ancestral home. The conflict is further complicated by religious, political, and economic differences. The United States has an interest to ensure a lasting peace is reached between Israel and Palestine. DeFazio believes this can only be accomplished through a two-state solution, which will require a much more assertive role by the U.S. in bringing Israeli and Palestinian leaders to the negotiating table.

In the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

DeFazio cosponsored and voted for H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010. The legislation, which was signed by President Obama in July, 2010, significantly strengthens sanctions against Iran, including imposing sanctions on foreign entities that sell refined petroleum to Iran or assist Iran in its domestic refining capacity.

DeFazio voted for two bills to reduce wasteful defense spending:

- Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform, cracking down on Pentagon waste and cost overruns in the acquisition of weapon systems, increasing oversight and competition.
- Reforming other DoD Acquisition, cleaning up DOD acquisition spending for the 80 percent that is for services and other non-weapons items, saving taxpayers an estimated \$27 billion a year.
- DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1800, the National Security Letters Reform Act of 2009, legislation that would restore important constitutional rights by limiting the use of national security letters by the FBI.
- On March 3, 2009 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 984, the State Secrets Protection Act, legislation that would give federal judges the authority to review sensitive information the federal government seeks to protect from public disclosure.
- As a long-time member of the Human Rights Caucus and vocal critic of the use of torture, DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 104, legislation to establishing a no-holds barred commission to explore the development and legal approval of Bush Administration torture policies and other potential abuses of executive power.
- As he has for years, DeFazio is again a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 2567, to close the so-called School of the Americas, a U.S. military training academy for foreign militaries. Graduates of the school have been involved in human rights violations around the world.

- On October 27, 2009 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 2478, the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009. This legislation would direct the President to develop a regional strategy to guide U.S. support for multilateral efforts to eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability posed by the LRA.
- DeFazio joined his colleagues in sending a number of letters to the Obama Administration urging President Obama and his officials to support and defend human rights around the world. DeFazio signed letters to Obama officials regarding human rights and civil liberties issues in Sudan, Gaza, Colombia, China, Turkey, and Sri Lanka.

In the 110th Congress (2007-2008)

Iran

DeFazio continued being a leading voice in favor of diplomacy with Iran and warning that the administration cannot attack Iran without authorization from Congress:

- DeFazio reintroduced legislation, H.Con.Res. 33, arguing that the president cannot take military action against Iran without authorization from Congress. The bill was introduced on January 16, 2007.
- On May 16, 2007, DeFazio offered an amendment to H.R. 1585, the fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense Authorization bill that would prohibit the president from taking military action against Iran without authorization from Congress. The amendment would allow the president to respond without coming to Congress first in the event of a direct Iranian attack against the U.S. or our troops. The amendment was defeated 136-288.
- January 12, 2007 - DeFazio cosponsors H.J.Res. 14, a bill by Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) to prohibit military action against Iran without a vote in Congress or without a direct attack against the U.S. by Iran. H.J.Res. 14 would require the President's signature to have the force

of law.

- February 2, 2007 - DeFazio cosponsors H.R. 770, legislation to prohibit war with Iran without a vote in Congress.
- February 16, 2007 - DeFazio writes to House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Murtha urging him to include language in the Iraq supplemental spending bill to prohibit military action against Iran without authorization from Congress.
- October 3, 2007 - DeFazio cosponsors H.R. 3119, legislation to prohibit war with Iran without a vote in Congress.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.J.RES.64, Clarifying that the use of force against Iran is not authorized by the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, any resolution previously adopted, or any other provision of law.

DeFazio has supported a variety of efforts to end the conflict in Darfur, Sudan:

- On July 31, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 180, the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act. The bill was approved 418-1.
- On May 7, 2007, DeFazio joined dozens of his colleagues in writing to the President of China urging that China its influence with the Sudanese government to stop the genocide in Darfur. On May 21, 2007, DeFazio cosponsored H.Res. 422 also calling on the Chinese government to stop the conflict in Darfur.
- On April 25, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of H.Con.Res. 7, legislation calling on the Arab League to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up their efforts to end it. DeFazio was also a cosponsor of H.Con.Res. 7.

- On March 23, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 1591, the fiscal year 2007 supplemental spending bill for the war in Iraq. This legislation included \$44 million for humanitarian assistance for Darfurians and \$150 million for the African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur. The bill also included \$185.5 million for refugees and internally displaced persons in several countries, including Chad (which as you know has had spillover from Darfur). The final version of this legislation was sent to the President as H.R. 2206 and included \$213.4 million for Sudan, including \$19.4 million for embassy operations and security; \$44 million for humanitarian assistance; and \$150 million for the African Union peacekeeping force (AMIS).
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of [H.CON.RES.317](#), Condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic draft constitution and scheduled referendum.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.RES.1245, Urging the international community to provide the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur with essential tactical and utility helicopters.
- DeFazio continues to support overhauling U.S. relations with Cuba. He is a cosponsor of H.R. 654, legislation that would allow Americans to freely visit Cuba
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1678, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act. This legislation was approved by the House on April 25, 2007.
- As he has for years, DeFazio is again a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 1707, to close the so-called School of the Americas, a U.S. military training academy for foreign militaries. Graduates of the school have been involved in human rights violations around the world.
- On August 6, 2007, DeFazio voted against S. 1927, legislation that authorized the administration's warrantless wiretapping program conducted by the National Security Agency. S. 1927 represents the broadest legislative attack on civil liberties since the PATRIOT Act. It will allow the widespread wiretapping of American citizens without a warrant and with little oversight by the special FISA court. This legislation was signed into law on August 5, 2007. A few days prior, on August 3, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of a narrower House bill, H.R. 3356,

which was designed to address a loophole that had arisen and that restricted the ability of the NSA to spy on foreign communications that are routed through the U.S. telecommunications infrastructure. This legislation was defeated.

- On November 15, 2007 DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 3773, the "RESTORE Act." The bill was passed in the House and overhauls the administration's warrantless wiretapping program. H.R. 3773 strikes the appropriate balance between national security and civil liberties by requiring the government to get an individual warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court anytime an American is targeted for surveillance. The RESTORE Act would also restore critical judicial and congressional oversight to the wiretapping program.
- DeFazio cosponsored H.J.Res. 44, legislation to renew the import restrictions against the military junta in Burma. This legislation was signed into law on August 1, 2007.
- DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 1678, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act. This legislation was approved by the House on April 25, 2007.
- DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 3189, legislation to limit the use of national security letters and increase oversight of their use.

In the 109th Congress (2005-2006):

DeFazio voted against the USA PATRIOT Act when it was originally considered in the House in 2001. During the debate over reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act (H.R. 3199) in 2005, DeFazio voted against the House version of the bill and the final version of the bill negotiated with the Senate. During the floor debate, DeFazio voted in favor of several amendments to protect civil liberties, including:

- An amendment by Rep. Flake (R-AZ) to require the director of the FBI to personally approve any library or bookstore request for records under Section 215 of the Act. This amendment was approved 402-26.

- An amendment by Rep. Flake (R-AZ) to guarantee that a recipient of a national security letter can consult with an attorney and can challenge the letter in court. This amendment was approved 394-32.
- An amendment by Rep. Flake (R-AZ) to narrow the scope of the so-called sneak and peek provisions of the Act. This amendment was approved 407-21. The final reauthorization bill was signed into law on March 9, 2000.

When the House considered H.R. 2862, the fiscal year 2006 funding bill for the Department of Justice, DeFazio voted in favor of an amendment to prohibit funds from being used to search library and book records under Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act. The amendment was approved by the House 238-187 on June 15, 2005, but was dropped in the final version of the bill.

DeFazio cosponsored stand-alone bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1157, the Freedom to Read Protection Act, which would rewrite Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act to protect library and bookstore users.

DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 550, legislation to require paper records that can be audited for electronic voting machines.

DeFazio was disturbed by revelations that President Bush authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to spy on communications between individuals in the U.S., including American citizens, and individuals overseas without a warrant. The NSA program appears to violate the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In response to the revelations about the NSA program, DeFazio contacted the Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee via letter on December 20, 2005, requesting hearings and an investigation. DeFazio also joined dozens of colleagues on December 20, 2005, in requesting that the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense and the Department of Justice investigate the NSA program and whether members of the Bush administration who authorized it violated the law. Along with this latter request, DeFazio and his colleagues also contacted the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, requesting that this agency conduct oversight of the NSA program and report back to Congress.

DeFazio voted against the Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act, H.R. 5825. The bill would endorse the NSA program and give extraordinary and unprecedented authority to the president, who, under the bill, would be permitted to conduct unlimited, warrantless wiretapping of U.S. citizens and others without probable cause. The bill would also allow the government to permanently retain and mine the data obtained from the warrantless surveillance, even data inadvertently obtained on innocent Americans from such surveillance, with no privacy protections for U.S. citizens. Further, the bill would prohibit court review of the warrantless wiretapping, leaving no opportunity in the future for judicial review of the constitutionality of the program. The legislation also severely limits congressional oversight of the program to a handful of members who would be sworn to secrecy.

DeFazio voted against H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006. One of the primary reasons DeFazio voted against the bill is because it does not create a sustainable system to expedite the trials of terrorists held by the U.S. Congress considered the legislation only after the Supreme Court threw out the original military tribunal process set up by the Bush administration. However, there are significant constitutional and legal questions with the current legislation, which means it will certainly be subject to additional legal wrangling and court rulings, including consideration by the Supreme Court. That means further delays in prosecuting terrorists. Further, any prosecutions undertaken as a result of this bill could be thrown out later if courts find the tribunal process set up by this legislation to have constitutional or other legal flaws. That could lead to terrorists being set free and would force the U.S. back to where it started, without a working military commission system. DeFazio, along with numerous military leaders and other legal experts, have expressed several concerns about the legislation: (1) It allows convictions, including a death sentence, based on evidence the accused can never see or challenge; (2) it allows convictions based on evidence obtained through torture and abusive interrogations; (3) it allows convictions based on hearsay evidence rather than requiring witnesses to actually testify and be cross-examined; (4) it allows the president too much discretion in interpreting U.S. obligations under the Geneva Conventions, which could allow CIA interrogators to use abusive techniques that have been outlawed by the Pentagon; and (5) it prohibits any detainees from filing habeas corpus appeals.

DeFazio has also been active in response to charges that prisoners in the custody of the U.S. military or intelligence agencies have been tortured. In response, DeFazio has:

- Voted in favor of Senator McCain's (R-AZ) language in the fiscal year 2006 Department of Defense Authorization and Appropriations Acts to prohibit U.S. personnel from engaging in cruel or unusual punishment.

- Cosponsored stand-alone legislation, H.R. 3985, that is identical to McCain's amendment.
- Joined dozens of colleagues in writing to House and Senate appropriators on October 28, 2005 in support of keeping Senator McCain's language, as well as language by Rep. Markey that would prohibit any money from being spent to contravene the U.N. Nations Convention Against Torture, in the final version of the fiscal year 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations bill.
- Cosponsored H.R. 3003, legislation to create an independent commission to investigate detainee abuse.
- Cosponsored H.R. 112, legislation that would (1) require videotaping of interrogations and other pertinent contact between U.S. military personnel and/or private contractors, and detainees held in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba and elsewhere, and (2) provide unfettered access to detainees by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture for independent monitoring of detainee treatment and conditions.

In February 2005, DeFazio joined others in writing to Attorney General Gonzales asking for an investigation of the role private contractors played in the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib.

DeFazio continued in his role as a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus to join his colleagues in writing to administration officials and government leaders in other countries raising concerns about human rights abuses in Haiti, Darfur (Sudan), Indonesia, Colombia, Eritrea, China, Vietnam, Nigeria, Liberia, Mexico,

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This legislation: directs the President to block the assets and deny visas to members of the Sudanese government responsible for the crimes, as well as their family members and associates; authorizes the President to provide U.S. military assistance to the African Union troops currently serving in Darfur, as well as working with NATO to provide additional assistance; prohibits U.S.

aid to any country in violation of the embargo against selling weapons to Sudan; denies the entry of Sudanese cargo ships and oil tankers into U.S. ports; and directs the U.S. representative to the United Nations to seek an expansion of the African Union military mission in Sudan. This legislation was approved by Congress and sent to the president for his signature on October 2, 2006.

DeFazio has also done the following to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur:

- On June 8, 2006, voted in favor of an amendment by Rep. Obey to increase humanitarian aid to Darfur refugees by \$50 million by reducing aid to Egypt. Unfortunately, however, this amendment was defeated 198-225.
- Signed a May 2006 letter by Reps. Capuano, Payne, and Tancredo to House appropriators urging that money be provided in H.R. 4939, the emergency supplemental for Iraq/Hurricane Katrina, to help Darfur.
- Signed an April 2006 letter by Rep. Wolf to Secretary Rice urging the appointment of a special envoy for Sudan.

On March 16, 2006, voted in favor of H.R. 4939, the fiscal year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill. This legislation provides more than \$300 million to sustain the African Union Peacekeeping force in Darfur and to transition to a U.N. force. The bill also provides \$66.290 million to meet humanitarian needs in Darfur.

During consideration of H.R. 4939 on the House floor, DeFazio voted in favor of an amendment by Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA) to increase the peacekeeping funds in the bill for Darfur by \$50 million. This amendment was approved 213-208.

In February 2006, joined a bipartisan group of members of the House in writing to President Bush urging that the U.S. use our time as the president of the United Nations Security Council to show strong leadership on resolving the crisis in Darfur, including by introducing a resolution authorizing a U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur, providing increased financial support to the

African Union Mission in Sudan, and stepping up pressure on the Sudanese government to comply with Security Council resolutions related to Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with forces in Southern Sudan.

Signed a November 2005 letter by Rep. Blumenauer to Bush urging that the President request \$50 million for the AU peacekeeping force in Darfur in his next emergency supplemental request.

In May 2005, voted in favor of H.R. 1268, the \$82 billion spending bill for the ongoing occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, which included significant resources to combat the problems in Darfur. The bill provides \$50 million to support the peacekeeping efforts of the African Union troops in Darfur; \$240 million for international food and humanitarian aid programs administered by the Department of Agriculture, which will be directed to Darfur and other areas of Africa; \$40 million for International Disaster and Famine Assistance administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development specifically to assist refugees from Darfur; and \$48.4 million for Migration and Refugee Assistance for individuals affected by the genocide in Darfur.

Voted in favor of H.R. 4613, the fiscal year 2005 DOD Appropriations bill, which included \$70 million in international disaster and famine assistance and the \$25 million in migration and refugee assistance for Darfur.

Voted in favor of \$311 million for Darfur that was included in H.R. 4818, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2005, which was signed into law in December 2004.

In October 2004 voted in favor of H.R. 5061, the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act. This legislation requires annual reports exposing the identity of all entities engaged in commercial activities in Sudan; prohibits any entities doing business in Sudan from raising capital in the U.S. or from trading its stock in U.S. markets; prohibits the issuance of U.S. visas to Sudanese government officials; and calls on the United Nations to establish an international war crimes tribunal to punish those responsible for the atrocities in Sudan.

Was a cosponsor H.Con.Res. 403, legislation condemning the Sudanese government for its attacks against innocent civilians, urging the delivery of humanitarian aid, and urging the United

Nations to investigate the government of the Sudan for crimes against humanity. This legislation was approved by the House on May 17, 2004.

Voted in favor of H.Con.Res. 467, legislation declaring that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide. This resolution was approved by the House 422-0 on July 22, 2004.

DeFazio signed letters to House Appropriations Committee leaders on May 19, 2005 and October 31, 2005, requesting adequate support for international family planning programs.

DeFazio joined dozens of colleagues in writing to House Appropriators in April 2005 requesting adequate funding for programs under the Torture Victims Relief Act. DeFazio was also a cosponsor of H.R. 2017, legislation to reauthorize the Torture Victims Relief Act. This legislation was approved by voice vote in both the House and Senate in December 2005 and presented to the President for his signature into law on January 3, 2006.

DeFazio has been a leading advocate for negotiations to resolve the nuclear stand-off with Iran.

On April 13, 2006, DeFazio coordinated a letter to President Bush signed by a number of his colleagues warning him that under the Constitution, he cannot initiate military action against Iran without coming to Congress for authorization first.

On April 26, 2006, DeFazio introduced a resolution, H.Con.Res. 391, that made the same arguments as the letter.

Also on April 26, 2006, DeFazio voted against legislation, H.R. 282, which established as official U.S. policy regime change in Iran.

On September 1, 2006, DeFazio sent a letter to Secretary Rice urging the administration to "fully engage in direct diplomacy with Iran, without pre-conditions, and without limitations on the range of issues that can be discussed." The letter went on to detail the many areas of

commonality between the negotiating proposals put forth by Iran and the European Union (with the implicit and explicit support of the U.S.) since the spring of 2003 that could serve as the basis for a diplomatic resolution to the conflict.

On September 29, 2006, DeFazio joined a bipartisan group of 19 members of the House in writing to President Bush urging direct diplomacy with Iran.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3760, legislation to establish a Department of Peace. A Department of Peace could better focus our international peacekeeping efforts as well as other initiatives to prevent international conflicts. In addition, the department would help with dispute resolution domestically as well. For example, the department could help inject a culture of tolerance in schools that might help prevent future violence by students.

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004):

DeFazio was one of only 66 House members to vote against the USA Patriot Act. Since then, he has cosponsored H.R. 1157, the Freedom to Read Protection Act, legislation which would reinstate protections for library and bookstore records. In July 2003, DeFazio voted for an amendment to H.R. 2799, the fiscal year 2004 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Act to prohibit funding in the bill to be used to implement the so-called "sneak and peak" provision of the Patriot Act, which allows police to conduct searches and seize evidence without first notifying the subject of the investigation. While the amendment was approved by the House, the prohibition was removed in the final version of the bill.

DeFazio has been active throughout his career in sending letters and to various parties and voting in favor of legislation condemning human right violations around the world, including in Colombia, Indonesia, North Korea, China, Vietnam, and Burma, among others.

DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 5061, the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act. This legislation requires annual reports exposing the identity of all entities engaged in commercial activities in Sudan; prohibits any entities doing business in Sudan from raising capital in the U.S. or from trading its stock in U.S. markets; prohibits the issuance of U.S. visas to Sudanese government officials; and calls on the United Nations to establish an international war crimes tribunal to punish those responsible for the atrocities in Sudan. The original House version was approved

412-3 on October 7, 2004. The Senate version of this legislation was signed into law on December 23, 2004.

DeFazio was a cosponsor H.Con.Res. 403, legislation condemning the Sudanese government for its attacks against innocent civilians, urging the delivery of humanitarian aid, and urging the United Nations to investigate the government of the Sudan for crimes against humanity. This legislation was approved by the House on May 17, 2004 by a vote of 360-1

And, DeFazio voted in favor of H.Con.Res. 467, legislation declaring that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide. This resolution was approved by the House 422-0 on July 22, 2004.

DeFazio is a proponent of the Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers Act. This legislation would prohibit United States military assistance and arms transfers to foreign governments that are undemocratic, do not adequately protect human rights, are engaged in acts of armed aggression, or are not fully participating in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

DeFazio has proposed reductions in the Foreign Military Financing program, a program that uses U.S. taxpayer dollars to finance military purchases by foreign countries, including countries with problematic human rights records like Egypt and Pakistan.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002):

DeFazio was honored by the Human Rights Campaign in 2002 for being one of only 20 Members of the House to have a 100 percent rating every year since the HRC began scoring congressional votes in 1990.

DeFazio, a recognized expert on Congressional constitutional prerogative to declare war, was one of the first to raise concerns about the unprecedented scope of the draft authorization of force resolution offered by the House Republican leadership in the wake of the September 11th attacks. DeFazio worked with Minority Leader Gephardt and other Democratic negotiators to get language in the final version of the authorization of force resolution (H.J.Res. 64/S.J.Res. 23) allowing the President to fully respond to the September 11

th

attacks while protecting Congressional authority to determine when to send U.S. troops into battle in the future.

DeFazio continued his leadership on protection congressional war powers under the Constitution by coordinating a letter to President Bush in December 2001 challenging Bush's assertion that he had the authority to attack nations unrelated to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks - including Iraq - without further authorization from Congress. During consideration of the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense Authorization Bill, DeFazio worked with Representative Ron Paul (R-TX) on an amendment to reinforce Congress' war powers. This amendment was blocked from consideration on the floor. In July 2002 DeFazio introduced a bipartisan resolution, H.J.Res. 109, which says the President cannot legally strike against Iraq without congressional approval and calls on Congress to debate the president's war plans for Iraq. In late August 2002, DeFazio drafted a point-by-point rebuttal of the Administration's arguments for unilateral executive war-making authority. In early September 2002, the Bush Administration announced it would seek authorization from Congress for a war with Iraq.

DeFazio joined 30 Members of the House in filing a lawsuit in federal district court challenging the President's authority to withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty without congressional consent.